



Cowdray Park Polo Club
Conditions of Entry for Domestic & HPA Tournaments
2025

1. All Entry Forms must be **FULLY** completed by the closing date. Domestic tournaments will be invoiced after the tournament has finished and HPA tournaments before the tournament commences. The Chairman has directed that **all tournament fee invoices are to be paid within 7 days of receipt and that patrons and players with outstanding debts will not be allowed to continue to play (even if halfway through a tournament).** There will be no exceptions to this rule.

2. One nominated player/manager per team is responsible for liaison with the Polo Office. They are responsible for collating all no play dates, including any HPA tournaments (play dates at CPPC take precedence over domestic tournaments at other clubs.) Dates and times of teams entered with a TBA will not be changed.

All teams are obligated to provide at least 50% of the offered play dates to compete in the tournament. If the team cannot provide enough dates, they should not enter the tournament. If the number of submitted no play dates is regarded by the Polo Manager to be too high to be practical, then further play dates will be requested, if not provided, the Polo Manager reserves the right to schedule a match for any potential play date during the tournament. At the same time the position will be reported to the Tournament Committee and if sufficient play dates are not provided immediately then the team will be excluded from the tournament without redress or appeal.

No-play dates/preferred play dates will only be accepted by email. Dates given in conversation, text, whatsapp or phone call **MUST** be confirmed by the nominated player/manager via email for them to be accepted.

3. After the schedule has been completed and emailed out it will be the responsibility of the nominated player/manager to confirm dates and times with the rest of the team.

4. A team wishing to change a scheduled time (not day), having obtained permission from the Polo Office, will be responsible for seeking the agreement from all players on the opposing side. There will be no obligation for a team to switch and if a new time cannot be agreed the match will be played on the scheduled time and date (unless there has been an oversight of the Polo Office in the original scheduling). The Polo Manager has no ability to impose a change on any team.

5. All team changes and substitutions **MUST** come through the Polo Office. The Polo Office will then inform the opposing team.

6. Teams wishing to schedule a game outside the Club's normal playing hours (11am – 5pm in exceptional circumstances only) will be subject to an extra charge of £750.

7. Once the team has been entered and the draw published it may not withdraw unless there are exceptional circumstances, and the Tournament Committee agrees. Please note that the withdrawal of a team from a match without the permission of the Tournament Committee will be considered misconduct as laid out in the HPA Blue Book, and the entry fee will be forfeited.



- 8.** All teams must provide an umpire pony, saddled as for polo for each of its matches (two ponies per team in 15, 18 & 22 goal) as laid out by the HPA.
- 9.** When asked by the Polo Office, a team must provide either an umpire or a third man to officiate either the game before or after their match.
- 10.** No ponies are allowed to be stationed in the safety zones by the grooms during play; however, they may be at the corners of the ground and can move along the safety zones only if the ball is NOT in play. Nominated captains must ensure their grooms comply with these rules to ensure the safety of the viewing public at all times. Non-compliance will result in a fine.
- 11.** All players, umpires and grooms must wear a hard hat to the standard set out in the HPA Blue Book 2025 at all times when on horseback at Cowdray Park Polo Club, its premises and grounds.
- 12.** Teams will bring 2 sets of shirts, a 'home' and 'away' set so should they need to change they are able to.
- 13.** All ponies attending Cowdray Park Polo Club must hold an HPA Equine passport and must have had an inoculation for equine influenza. In addition, a copy or original of the passport must accompany the pony whenever it is on Cowdray Park Polo Club grounds.
- 14.** All league matches at Cowdray Park Polo Club will finish on a win.
- 15.** In all Cowdray based official HPA and domestic tournaments, goals will be widened in the second extra chukka.
- 16.** Any visiting player at Cowdray Park will be considered a temporary member of the club for the purpose of discipline.
- 17.** If a player accumulates 2 yellow cards during a domestic tournament, they will start all remaining games in that tournament with 1 yellow card. Once the tournament finishes the player will start their next game of that handicap level with no yellow cards.
- 18.** The decision of the Tournament Committee is final regarding any dispute.
- 19.** Cowdray Park Polo Club's broadcast partner is Pololine TV Ltd. Cowdray Park Polo Club Ltd. has granted license to all filming, distribution and broadcast, for all tournaments hosted at Cowdray, to Pololine TV Ltd. For the avoidance of any doubt, you hereby accept that no filming is permitted at any games, hosted or promoted by Cowdray Park Polo Club Ltd. without the express consent of the Managing Director of Cowdray Park Polo Club. For filming approvals, accreditation or the purchase of footage please contact marketing@cowdraypolo.co.uk
- 20.** All teams lucky enough to be in a presentation after a match must present themselves and, if awarded, the best playing pony to the presentation area no later than ten minutes from when they leave the field.



21. Any Trophy/Cup is to be insured by the winning team from the day it is presented until the day that it is presented to the next winning team. It is also the winning team's responsibility to return the Trophy Cup clean and engraved.

22. All players that arrive late and delay the start of a match will be fined £200+VAT. The player will be invoiced directly.

23. In addition to the above Conditions of Entry all tournaments played at Cowdray Park Polo Club will be played in accordance with the rules set out in the HPA Blue Book 2025.

24. Handicap limits in domestic Cowdray Park Polo Club Tournaments: -

12 Goal

- The minimum individual handicap is -1 goals. This shall not be counted towards a team's total handicap for entry purposes. i.e. a -1 player may not play with three other players worth 13 goals.
- The handicap of a -1 player shall be included in the team's total handicap to decide any handicap start at the beginning of a game.

8 Goal

- The minimum individual handicap is -1 goals. This shall not be counted towards a team's total handicap for entry purposes. i.e. a -1 player may not play with three other players worth 9 goals.
- The handicap of a -1 player shall be included in the team's total handicap to decide any handicap start at the beginning of a game.
- Any player with a Tier 2 or Tier 5 visa can only play with their sponsor and the team shall be limited to one such player.
- The maximum individual handicap is 6 goals.

6 Goal

- The minimum individual handicap is -1. This shall not be counted towards a team's total handicap for entry purposes. i.e. a -1 player may not play with three other players worth 7 goals.
- The handicap of a -1 player shall be included in the team's total handicap to decide any handicap start at the beginning of a game.
- The maximum individual handicap is 5 goals.

4 Goal

- The minimum handicap is -2 goals and maximum 4 goals.
 - No two players may exceed 5 goals.
- (Please note the HPA does not direct clubs to follow the new ruling that no THREE players may exceed 5 goals. As a result we will NOT be following this handicap condition.)



25. ACCIDENTS & EMERGENCIES

Reporting of Accidents

Under Health and Safety legislation it is now a patron's responsibility as an employer to ensure that if their professional has a serious accident they report the accident to the relevant enforcing authority under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR). Patrons are also responsible for ensuring that any serious accident which they are involved in is also reported to the above body. All injuries should be reported as soon as possible, with injuries lasting longer than 3 days to be reported within 10 days. To report an incident, patrons should inform the Incident Contact Centre (ICC). The ICC is a 'one-stop' reporting service for work-related health and safety

incidents in the UK. They can be contacted on: 0845 300 9923, Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 5.00pm. Alternatively reports can be made online at: www.hse.gov.uk/riddor